

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at Be My Guest across from Mullins Crossing

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Elaine Attaway
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
and Joe Bert



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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August, 2014

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

Eye Appeal is Buy appeal when it comes to collecting

Club Meeting Calendar for 2014

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Stay Away from “Ugly” Coins no matter how rare



One of the tenets of coin collecting is to acquire the “key date before the common ones of a particular series. Sound advice? Yes and no! It depends on the series. Let’s say you have been attracted to Barber quarters having acquired a lovely 1900 graded MS-62 for your type collection. You decide it might be fun to compile a complete set only to find that the 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S are “stoppers”, so expensive that even in VG-8, the three keys are priced at well over \$1,000. Even if you could afford them at those grades each coin would probably have little eye appeal due to extensive wear possibly accompanied by other detractors such as rough surfaces, discoloration or scratches. Better off to attempt putting together a date set of Barber quarters matching your 1900 in appearance from AU-58 thru MS-63.



There are some series in which the key date is not considered a “stopper” but still expensive out of proportion to the rest of the coins of the set. The best advice, especially for a novice collector is to avoid completing a date set from a particular series altogether and concentrate more on a specific type set either from a specific denomination, decade, generation or entire century. It is possible to complete a 20th Century type set (excluding gold) with attractive pieces. Depending on one’s budget you might consider collecting specimens within the following grade ranges, Fine-12 to VF-20, VF-30 to XF-40, XF-45 to AU-55 or AU-58 thru MS-63. By staying within any one of these grade ranges, your type set will appear balanced and pleasing to the eye.

Collecting the Coins of 1914, 100 years ago, (excluding gold) By Arno Safran



The obverses of a certified uncirculated 1914 US year set (excluding gold) the 50c, 25c & 10c over the 5c & 1c

On July 28, 1914--exactly one century ago--Austrian Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated plunging Europe into a war between the Central Powers of Germany and Austria against England, France and Russia. With the war spreading, pressure was being put on the United States to take sides with the result that on August, 19 of that year; President Woodrow Wilson pledged that the United States would remain neutral since many of its citizens represented ethnic backgrounds from the very European countries involved in the conflict.

By 1914, photos of the period show our nation beginning to adjust to our changing technology. The automobile was gradually replacing the horse and buggy and air travel was becoming commercialized.

Our coinage was also undergoing a transformation from the old allegorical stylized designs still being represented by Chief engraver Charles Barber’s Liberty head silver pieces to the portrait coinage of real people featuring Abraham Lincoln on the cent and a composite of three actual Native American chiefs on the 5c nickel.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the US Coins of 1914 (excluding gold)

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



The reverses of a 1914 certified BU year set (excluding gold)
[Increase magnification to view details.]

In 1914, there were three US Mints in operation, the Philadelphia Mint (*going all the way back to 1793*), the San Francisco Mint since 1854 (*as a result of the discovery of large gold deposits near Sutter's Mill, California*) and the recently opened Denver Mint in 1906. Long gone were the gold Mints of Dahlonega, GA and Charlotte, NC, (1838-1861*) The Carson City Mint was in operation from 1870-1893) and finally, the New Orleans Mint which opened in 1838 finally closing its doors after 1909.

* In 1861 \$1.00 gold pieces were struck in Dahlonega under the auspices of the state of GA and the CFA.

A total of nine different denominations were struck in 1914, the bronze cent, the 5c nickel, the silver dime, quarter and half-dollar and four gold coins; the beautiful \$20.00 Saint-Gaudens double eagle and \$10 Indian and the \$5.00 and \$2.50 incuse Indian Head pieces designed by Bela Lyon Pratt. The two smallest gold denominations are modestly priced through MS-62 but for the purpose of this article we will focus on just the non-gold issues, the cent thru the half-dollar.



A 1914 -P Lincoln cent graded MS-64 Red by ICG

The collector has three options to acquire a cent dated 1914, but only the Philadelphia Mint issue with a mintage of 75.2 million is moderately priced in uncirculated condition, the low mintage 1914-D being one of the key dates of the series with a mintage of just under 2 million and the 1914-S with only slightly more than 4 million being somewhat costly in mint state. In you are putting together a year set averaging between VF and XF, you would find a nice brown XF-45 1914-P cent not only inexpensive but still fairly attractive. Mint state specimens should grade either full Red or Red-Brown, the latter being less costly.



A 1914-P Indian Head Buffalo nickel graded MS-64 by PCGS
[Increase magnification to view details.]

The Indian Head Buffalo nickel was struck from 1913 thru 1938. In 1934, dealers began stashing away rolls of brand new US coins shortly after they left the mint. Prior to that year, most of the branch-mint coins, (those struck at the San Francisco and Denver facilities), were produced in very lower numbers with the result that most of the earlier branch-mint dates are scarce to rare in uncirculated condition today. Such is the case with the 1914-D and S nickels. While The Philadelphia Mint struck 21.6 million Buffalo nickels in 1914, the Denver Mint coined only 3.9 million with the San Francisco just 3.4 million. Those attempting to assemble a 1914 year set will most likely be forced to acquire a 1914-P nickel variety due to its low cost as high as MS-64.

In 1996, noted numismatist Bill Fivaz, a co-author along with J.T. Stanton of the *Cherry Picker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties of United States Coins* proposed a contest for collectors to find a new over-date coin. As a result, a 1914/3 Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel was discovered. Since then, a number have been found, one in as high a grade as MS-66.



Increase magnification



A 1914 Barber dime graded MS-64 by NGC
[Increase magnification to view details.]

In 1914, the Philadelphia Mint struck over 17 million dimes while the Denver Mint produced just fewer than 12 million. Both mint issues are considered common dates in all grades. With the 1914-D dime, the shrewd collector interested in unusual varieties should look for the blundered D mint mark The 1914-S, with a mintage 2.1 million is far scarcer, especially grading VF-20 and higher and is more expensive in the higher grades. The 1914 P & D issue should not be a problem for the collector to locate. The 1914-P specimen shown above was acquired in August, 2010 at the BRNA show held in Dalton, GA.

The Barber dime is an attractive coin in virtually all grades from Fine-12 thru MS-64. Depending on one's disposal income a collector could assemble a complete Philadelphia Mint set of Barber dimes from 1892 thru 1916 with only the 1895 being a quasi-key date.

Collecting the US Coins of 1914 (excluding gold)

(Continued from previous page)



A 1914-D Barber Quarter graded MS-62 by PCGS
{Increase magnification to view details}

Pictured above is a lovely MS-62 example of a 1914-D Barber Liberty Head quarter. The Denver Mint produced a total of 3,046,000 that year, a little less than half the amount of the Philadelphia Mint's output of 6,224,230 yet the survival rate from each Mint is sufficient to keep the prices moderate up through MS-64. The 1914-S with a mintage of just 264,000 is another story. It had the fourth lowest mintage of the series behind the 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S often referred to as the three "stoppers" for collectors desirous of completing the Barber Quarter series (1892-1916).

The 1914-D quarter pictured above was acquired at our Augusta Coin Club show back in November of 1911. It has been observed that some coins graded AU-58 can appear as attractive as MS-63s with a little rub. In recent years the author has observed a number of coins certified MS-62 that has the eye appeal of an MS-63, even a MS-64. Certified coins grading AU-58 can also appear dull and a number of coins grading MS-62 specimens may have tiny detracting marks across its surface. This is why one must grade the coin, not the slab.



A beautifully toned 1914-P Barber half graded MS-64 by PCGS
{Increase magnification to view details}

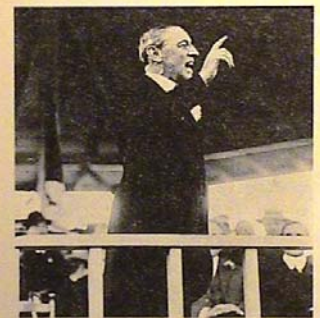
The 1914-P Barber half-dollar had the lowest mintage of the 73 dates and mintmarks issued from 1892 through 1915, just 124,230. According to the late David Lawrence, author of *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*, the 1914-P issue is scarce from VG thru AU-58, less so in mint-state condition, since during the era of this coin-type, only the wealthy could afford to put an uncirculated specimen away. The 1914-S half had a mintage of 992,000 yet is not considered a scarce date by comparison. No half dollars were coined at the Denver mint in 1914. Despite these facts, the 1914-P is not nearly as difficult to locate above Fine as a number of higher low-mintage coins such as the 1893-S, 1896-S, 1897-O, 1897-S, 1898-O, 1901-S, the key 1904-S and the 1905-O. The key to obtaining a 1914-P half in high grade is selling a number of coins.

Some highlights of 1914



By 1914, the automobile was beginning to overtake the horse and buggy as a mode of travel

Despite tremendous technical advances with the inventions of the electric light, the telephone and phonograph, also the automobile and airplane among many others introduced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, by 1914 other parts of the world were breaking apart in armed conflict. It is ironic that exactly 100 years later, the aspects of our civilization are in many ways similar. Miniaturization has given us the compact disc, leading to the MP3, the PC, Desk-top, the cell phone and smart phone plus incredible military technical advances and another president who wanted to avoid war but may not.



Determined to keep us out of war.

Washington, D.C., Aug. 19

In response to the growing European war, President Wilson today reiterated his statement of August 4, that the United States is taking a neutral stance. Citing the Declaration of London of 1901, the President said that the open seas are neutral territory and that, as a maritime nation, the United States will maintain its position and will not take sides in the European dispute.



A Certified BU 1914 Year set (excluding gold)

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK UTAH

By Bill Myers



Kathy and I have been trying to explore the sites in and around Arizona since we moved here. We recently completed a trip to southeastern Utah to visit the parks located there. One of the parks we visited is Arches National Park. One of the big attractions is Delicate Arch which is on the Utah America the Beautiful quarter.

The quarter release for Arches was a month before our visit so we just missed it. There are 3 options to see Delicate Arch, as it cannot be seen from the road. One is the lower viewpoint which is about 200 yards from the parking lot. The other is the upper viewpoint, a 0.8 mile walk that is rugged, involves going up in elevation and there are crude stairs. The last option is 3 mile round trip walk to the arch that is rugged and climbs 280 feet. It was a sunny day and the temperature was in the high 90s. We did the lower viewpoint and with the zoom on my camera we could get a nice picture of the arch.

I then started to walk to the upper viewpoint and had to quit but Kathy was able to finish it and the pictures from there were no better than the lower viewpoint. We did not attempt to walk to the arch. The view I had of the arch is different then what is on the quarter in that it is from the other side of the arch.

There are other rock formations behind the arch from the view I had. To get the view on the quarter you have to walk to the arch and take the picture. Kathy and I were each able to get 4 of the arches quarters at the gift shop in the visitors center and they are from the Denver Mint.

There are many beautiful natural formations in Utah and it was nice to see one that has a numismatic connection.

Bill Myers was a past president of the Augusta Coin Club, (2004-2008). He is an orthopedic surgeon with the US Army who served two deployments to Iraq. He specializes in military Exonumia and coins and currency featuring hands. (Ed.)

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.

Summary of Meeting held July 17, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Be My Guest by President, Steve Nix. We had a total of 50 people in attendance with 48 members and 2 guests, Bill and Ethan Tankersley.

Secretary's Report:

The June 19, 2014 minutes was waived, a copy to be placed on file.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report from Elaine Attaway was read and approved. We have \$6,368.08 deposited in the checking account with additional revenue coming from the 50/50 drawing.

Prize Winners:

Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Geri Putman (\$70.00). Mike Joesbury won a 2014 Silver Eagle and Ken Woodfield won a 1962 Franklin Half Dollar.

Our Fall Coin Show will take place November 21st (Friday) and November 22nd (Saturday) 2014 with David Chism as Bourse Chairman. It will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located beyond the Grovetown Wal-Mart on Gateway B'lv'd. East just off I-20, Interchange 190.

Show & Tell:

Baseball Hall Frame Dollar was displayed by President Steven Nix. Jim Barry displayed a coin from 8th Century Carthage.

The Program:

Arno Safran gave a program on *collecting certified uncirculated coins of the Great Depression, the Early 1930s*. In addition to the coins, the slides also featured news photos of the period.

Coin Token:

Our 2014 club medallion displays the Boyhood Home of Woodrow Wilson. It is struck in antique copper, antique bronze and silver wash--three different metal alloys: The price for members is \$10.00 each or three for \$28.00.

Old Business:

Due to the \$150 per month rental fee for the hall, President Nix announced at the June meeting that those members without E-mail would no longer receive a postal mailed copy of the newsletter. However, they could pick up a copy of the printed newsletter at the meetings. President Nix suggested that members with e-mail capability print out copies to bring to the meeting. Please let newsletter Editor Arno Safran or Treasurer Elaine Attaway know your new e-mail address.

There were five YNs present and each drew a coin from the juniors' grab-bag.

Auction:

Glenn Sanders ran the auction. There were eleven members' lots. Connie Clayton served as a runner which speeded up the proceedings. The Bids recorder was David Chism.

Respectively Submitted,

John Thomas Attaway, Recording Secretary

Augusta Coin Club Issues 2014 Medallion



The 2014 ACC Medallion struck in copper (actual size)
Featuring the boyhood home of President Woodrow Wilson
[Enlarge document in view details]

Shown above is the 2014 Augusta medallion struck in copper. Two other versions were also produced, one in Antique Bronze and another in silver-wash. The three together are priced at \$28 or \$10 each. The medallion portrays the boyhood home of our 28th US President Woodrow Wilson who was elected in 1912 and served two terms as our nation's chief executive.

His presidency spanned an era exactly a century ago, which in many ways is similar to ours today. Wilson was born in the town of Staunton, VA (pronounced Stanton) by the folks who reside there) coincidentally in the county of Augusta. His father was a minister there. When Wilson was eight years old, the family moved to the city of Augusta, GA where his father continued as a minister. Wilson was raised as a devout Christian who applied his strong moral beliefs as a student, later a scholar, as President of Princeton University, then known as the College of New Jersey. He was elected as Governor in NJ and finally President of the United States. He believed in helping the working class of America find better opportunities and promoted legislation to achieve this.

Almost exactly 100 years ago, Europe was becoming embroiled in what would later be called World War I and pressure from the five main European countries that were fighting each other were being put on the President to take a stand. Wilson decided that it was in the best interests of our nation to remain neutral and even after the sinking of the ocean liner the Lusitania in 1915 by a German submarine he continued his hands off stance. In the election of 1916, he campaigned using the slogan, "Reelect Wilson. He kept us out of war." However, relations between Germany and the United States continued to worsen and in 1917, America entered one of the bloodiest wars in world history which would not end until November 11, 1918. Woodrow Wilson was a complex man and he may not have always been politically astute in dealing with Congress but historians regard the man as one of our most noble statesmen as well as being one of our better presidents despite failing to get Congress to ratify the US' entry into the League of Nations in 1919.

Our 2014 medallion therefore honors one of our great Americans who grew up in Augusta.

The 2014 Medallion also represents the completion of a full decade of striking Augusta Coin Club medallions begun with the 2005 issue when the club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Each year since, the ACC has struck medallions in the same three alloys representing a different local theme of significance.



The 2014 ACC Medallion struck in Antique Bronze



The 2014 ACC Medallion struck in silver-wash

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